

# Oxford University Museum of Natural History

## Visiting Fellowships 2019-20



The Museum of Natural History supports object-focussed research that makes use of its extensive collections, which range across palaeontology, mineralogy, entomology, zoology and archives, together with the art and architecture that is integral to the building. In academic year 2019-20, the museum will host a programme of Visiting Fellowships to work on the collections. The field of study for the Fellowships is open, but for 2019-20 the museum would particularly welcome applications to undertake research in the following areas:

- Pleistocene mammals
- British minerals of the North Pennine Orefield
- Structural and metamorphic geology of the Himalaya and Norway
- Mantodea taxonomy and systematics
- Arachnid taxonomy and systematics
- Scarabaeoidea taxonomy and systematics.

### **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

The Fellowships are aimed at applicants from outside the University of Oxford, and international applications are particularly welcomed; the museum also welcomes proposals from early career researchers within the University,

Fellows are expected to be regularly present in Oxford throughout the period of the Fellowship

Fellows must hold a doctorate at the point in time that they commence the Fellowship, or have accrued equivalent professional collections expertise in the museum sector

Non-EEA applicants are reminded that if they require a visa in order to take up a Fellowship in the UK, they are responsible for securing the appropriate UK visa and, once a proposal has been accepted, award of the Fellowship will be conditional on fulfilling this requirement. Check the UK Visa and Immigration website to see if you require a UK visa.

Applications will be considered for research visits of any duration up to one or two months. The Museum aims to award around six Fellowships per academic year.

In every case, the Selection Committees will consider applications according to the following criteria:

- The potential of the candidate to contribute to the research culture of the Museum and the University
- The value of the Museum of Natural History collections in carrying out the proposed research
- Research track record relative to career stage
- The potential of the project to increase public understanding and engagement with the research area and the collections that underlie it
- A clear articulation of how the research will be completed within the duration of the Fellowship

### **Terms for Oxford University Museum of Natural History Visiting Fellowships**

Visiting Fellowships will be awarded to enable research in Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Accommodation will be provided in the Museum Lodge, which is a three-bedroomed house located 100 metres from the main entrance to the museum. One or more rooms will be available for individuals with family or other care responsibilities, and the Museum Lodge will then be available for sole occupation. For other Fellowships, up to three researchers or visitors might share the house.

In addition to the accommodation outlined above, the Fellowship fund may be used to cover standard-class travel expenses of your research visit to Oxford, and up to £100 per week for subsistence. You will be asked to submit original itemised receipts for costs of your travel and your subsistence while in Oxford. Release of these funds is dependent on your residence in Oxford during the period specified.

Any costs arising from changes to travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the Visiting Fellow and not reimbursed by the Museum or University.

Fellows from non-EEA countries are responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate UK visa to support a research trip in the UK for the duration of the Fellowship. Please note that the Museum's ability to offer Fellowships to non-EEA nationals is governed by strict UK visa regulations. To check if you require a UK visa, see the UK Government's website. We strongly recommend that you seek informal advice from us before applying – please contact the Head of Operations ([wendy.shepherd@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.shepherd@oum.ox.ac.uk)).

An invitation to take up a Fellowship will be made subject to agreement on the dates of the visit. Applicants should indicate their preferred dates on the application form. Museum of Natural History Visiting Fellowships should be taken up between September 2019 and June 2020 for a minimum period of two weeks and a maximum of two months.

Applicants are normally allowed to receive only one Fellowship within a period of five years.

### **How to apply**

Before making an application, please see the Eligibility and Terms for Fellowships (above).

Note the application deadline for the Fellowships: **30 April 2019**

Complete an application form for each Fellowship, indicating the preferred dates for the visit. An invitation to take up a Fellowship will be made subject to agreement on the visit dates and fulfilment of any UK visa requirements.

Submit the completed application documents (as specified below) to the email address given below.

### ***Application documents***

Applications for all Museums of Natural History Visiting Fellowships must include:

- A completed application form, downloaded as a Word file, completed, and then saved as a pdf
- A curriculum vitae
- A proposal for research to be carried out on the collections of the Museum of Natural History during the term of the Fellowship (1000 words maximum). Applicants should indicate how the proposed study advances their own research goals and satisfies the aims of the Fellowship Programme.
- Two letters of recommendation from the academic referees named in the application form. Applicants should ask the referees to comment on their professional knowledge of the applicant and the contribution that the proposed research would make to scholarship. The referees should be asked to send their letters by email to [fellowships@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships@oum.ox.ac.uk), to arrive by the application deadline

Each document must be sent as an individual pdf file. Please do NOT combine all the documents into one file.

Please note: emailed applications and letters of recommendation MUST bear the subject line: Visiting Fellowships Application - Name. Send all application documents by email to [fellowships@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fellowships@oum.ox.ac.uk)